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Dedication to Miss Dorothy Salmon

This issue of the Kentucky Law Journal is dedicated to Miss Dorothy Salmon, Law Librarian and Associate Professor of Law, who died August 14, 1968. Her death has brought a deep, pervasive feeling of personal loss to the faculty, staff, and student body of the College of Law, and to her former students, professional colleagues, and friends everywhere.

Dorothy Salmon had no enemies or rational critics: only friends and admirers whom she assisted, with kindness and patience, over so many years. Her infinite capacity for competent, understanding service—extended evenly to all who had need for it—made her role in the life of this law school as nearly indispensable as one person's can be. Apart from its effect on the work of this place, her absence wounds the heart and the spirit because she thought the College of Law was essentially a good institution, worthy of her fullest dedication. She knew its shortcomings and did much to remove them, but she always took quiet pride in its achievements, particularly the continuing accomplishments of its graduates, so many of whom she had known personally as students.

A native of Paducah, Kentucky, Miss Salmon came to the University of Kentucky as a student in 1929 and was graduated with the B.S. degree in Commerce in 1933. That year she entered the College of Law, and became secretary to Dean Alvin E. Evans. She received the LL.B. degree in 1938 and was admitted to the Kentucky bar in 1939. In 1945 she assumed the position of Librarian and became a member of the faculty, serving successively as instructor, assistant professor, and associate professor. Except for a period of library science study and a year of leave as Librarian for the Court of Appeals of Kentucky, her entire professional career was given to the College of Law.

In a time when her professional associates gave increasing attention to their specialized interests and duties, Dorothy Salmon remained amazingly versatile. She was an excellent teacher in the legal bibliography course and in the office practice seminar which she taught to first year and third year students. Having served as Note Editor of the Kentucky Law Journal during her student days,

she always had a special concern for improvement in the law review and for good legal research in general. She was a thoroughly grounded lawyer who could provide perceptive ideas for the solution of a legal problem when one might expect only reference knowledge of legal materials. She was a member of the Order of the Coif, Beta Gamma Sigma, and served as an elected member of the University Senate from the law faculty. The University of Kentucky Law Alumni Association elected her annually as its Secretary, and for some years she edited the Alumni Newsletter. Her position and standing in regional and national law library affairs was well established through her contribution to the American Association of Law Libraries, which she had served as President.

Most of all, however, Miss Salmon used her creative and administrative talents for the building and care of a truly excellent Law Library at the University of Kentucky. She knew directly of the considerable efforts which Alvin Evans and the law faculty had made to create a strong collection of legal materials with little money in the formative years of the law school. Her constant goal was to broaden the scope and strengthen the quality of the basic collection which her predecessors had gathered and to perfect the service which students, scholars, and members of the bar expected in a major, modern research library. To this end she defended the autonomy of the Library, negotiated the purchase of its continuation sets in the face of ever-rising costs, prodded and assisted the faculty in the wise selection of new materials, and presided fairly over all of the operational problems inherent in a facility which serves the school and the public sixteen hours a day throughout the year. When she became Librarian, the collection numbered about 20,000 volumes, the annual book fund was less than \$5,000, and the staff was composed of herself and a few student assistants. When her stewardship ended, the Library contained more than 90,000 volumes, the recurring book fund was \$40,000, and the staff numbered 7 full-time members and 15 student assistants.

Only those who were associated with her closely at the time can appreciate fully the hours of planning, thought, and research which Miss Salmon contributed to the design and arrangement for the Law Library in the new Law Building constructed in 1964-65.

For more than three years, hardly a day passed when she was not heavily involved in the analysis, study, and discussion of the seemingly endless questions which architects, engineers, and administrators can put to one responsible for proper physical planning of a new library. This was not a business for which Dorothy's gentle nature and intellectual experiences had provided much background, but the quality of her mind and the persistence of her effort carried her through (and she did learn to read a blueprint). In the end the result was generally quite pleasing to those who came to see and use the new library, and this brought her considerable satisfaction. On the morning of December 4, 1965, the day before the Law Building was to be dedicated, she took me on a tour of the Library to demonstrate that everything was in place and ready. To draw her comment I asked, "What do you think of it?" She smiled just a little and said, "Well, it may not be the best planned law library I have ever seen, but I think it is pretty and I know it will work."

It is to be hoped that many ways will be found in the course of time to honor Dorothy Salmon and the values which her career at the College of Law so fully represented. While the sorrow of her death remains so close, however, one can only think of her genuine love for the College of Law, and be thankful for that.

W. L. Matthews, Jr.